

**What Is Claimed Is:**

- 1 1. A method of managing telephone calls to members of a user group, the  
2 method comprising:  
3 receiving from a first initiating party a first call initiation request  
4 directed to a first telephone number that is associated with a user group,  
5 the user group having as members a plurality of wireless telephones;  
6 signaling to the members of the user group that the first call  
7 initiation request has been directed to the first telephone number;  
8 receiving a signal from a first member of the user group indicating  
9 acceptance of the first call initiation request;  
10 connecting a first call between the first initiating party and the first  
11 member; and  
12 signaling to the other members of the user group that the first  
13 member has accepted the first call initiation request.
- 1 2. The method of claim 1, wherein the method further comprises:  
2 receiving a request from a second member of the user group to  
3 join the first call; and  
4 joining the second member to the first call.
- 1 3. The method of claim 1, wherein the method further comprises:  
2 receiving from the first member a request to block other members  
3 from joining the first call; and  
4 blocking other members from joining the first call.

- 1 4. The method of claim 1, wherein the method further comprises:  
2 receiving from a second initiating party a second call initiation  
3 request directed to a second telephone number that is only associated  
4 with a second member of the user group;  
5 alerting the second member of the user group that a call initiation  
6 request has been directed at the second member;  
7 receiving an indication that the second member of the user group  
8 desires to accept the second call initiation request; and  
9 connecting a second call between the second initiating party and  
10 the second member.
- 1 5. The method of claim 1, wherein the method further comprises:  
2 receiving a second call initiation request from a second member of  
3 the user group while the first call is in progress; and  
4 connecting a second call between the second member of the user  
5 group and another party while the first call is in progress.
- 1 6. The method of claim 1, wherein signaling the members of the user group  
2 that a call initiation request has been directed to the user group includes  
3 sending the members information identifying the initiating party, and  
4 wherein signaling the other members of the user group that the first party  
5 has accepted the first call initiation request includes sending the other  
6 members information identifying the first member.
- 1 7. The method of claim 1, wherein the first initiating party is not a member  
2 of the user group.

- 1 8. The method of claim 1, wherein the other members of the user group are  
2 not sent a signal indicating that the first member has accepted the first  
3 call initiation request if the first member has supervisory authority.
- 1 9. A system for managing telephone calls to members of a user group, the  
2 system comprising:  
3 a processor;  
4 a computer-readable medium having stored thereon instructions  
5 adapted to be executed by the processor, the instructions which, when  
6 executed, cause the processor to:  
7 receive from a first initiating party a first call initiation  
8 request directed to a first telephone number that is associated with a  
9 user group, the user group having as members a plurality of wireless  
10 telephones;  
11 determine the members of the user group using a user  
12 group database;  
13 signal to the members of the user group that a call initiation  
14 request has been directed to the first telephone number;  
15 receive a signal from a first member of the user group  
16 indicating a desire to accept the first call initiation request;  
17 connect a first call between the first initiating party and the  
18 first member; and  
19 signal the other members of the user group that the first  
20 member has accepted the first call initiation request.

- 1 10. The system of claim 9, wherein the instructions further include  
2 instructions to:  
3 receive a request from a second member of the user group to join  
4 the first call; and  
5 join the second member to the first call as a conference call.
- 1 11. The system of claim 9, wherein the instructions further include  
2 instructions to:  
3 receive from the first member a request to block other members  
4 from joining the first call; and  
5 block other members from joining the first call.
- 1 12. The system of claim 9, wherein the instructions further include  
2 instructions to:  
3 receive from a second initiating party a second call initiation  
4 request directed to a second telephone number that is only associated  
5 with a second member of the user group;  
6 alert the second member of the user group that a call initiation  
7 request has been directed at the second member;  
8 receive an indication that the second member of the user group  
9 desires to accept the second call initiation request; and  
10 connect a second call between the second initiating party and the  
11 second member.

- 1 13. The system of claim 9, wherein the instructions further include  
2 instructions to:  
3 receive a second call initiation request from a second member of  
4 the user group while the first call is in progress; and  
5 connect a second call between the second member of the user  
6 group and another party while the first call is in progress.
- 1 14. The system of claim 9, wherein the instructions to signal the members of  
2 the user group that a call initiation request has been directed to the user  
3 group includes instructions to send the members information identifying  
4 the initiating party, and wherein the instructions to signal the other  
5 members of the user group that the first party has accepted the first call  
6 initiation request includes instructions to send the other members  
7 information identifying the first member.
- 1 15. The system of claim 9, wherein the first initiating party is not a member of  
2 the user group.
- 1 16. The system of claim 9, wherein the instructions further include  
2 instructions to:  
3 receive a request over a network to establish a new user group;  
4 and  
5 update the user group database to add the new user group.

- 1 17. The system of claim 9, wherein the instructions further include  
2 instructions to:  
3 receive a request over a network from a member of the user  
4 group to modify the attributes of the user group; and  
5 update the user group database to modify the attributes of the  
6 user group.
- 1 18. A method of managing a telephone call directed to a user group, the  
2 method comprising:  
3 receiving at a first wireless telephone a first signal indicating that a  
4 call initiation request has been directed by an initiating party to a first  
5 telephone number that is associated with a user group, the user group  
6 having as members a plurality of wireless telephones, the first wireless  
7 telephone being a member of the user group;  
8 receiving a second signal at the first wireless telephone indicating  
9 that a second member of the user group has accepted the call initiation  
10 request;  
11 receiving a third signal at the first wireless telephone indicating  
12 that a call has been connected between the initiating party and the  
13 second member; and  
14 sending a signal from the first wireless telephone requesting to  
15 join the call.
- 1 19. The method of claim 18, wherein receiving the first signal, second signal,  
2 and third signal further include outputting an indication that the signal  
3 was received on an output device on the first wireless telephone.

- 1 20. The method of claim 18, wherein the method further comprises:  
2 receiving a signal indicating that the first wireless telephone  
3 is to block other members from joining the call.
- 1 21. A wireless telephone, the wireless telephone comprising:  
2 a processor; and  
3 a computer-readable medium having stored thereon instructions  
4 adapted to be executed by the processor, the instructions which, when  
5 executed, cause the processor to:  
6 receive a first input indicating that a call initiation request  
7 has been directed by an initiating party to a first telephone number that is  
8 associated with a user group, the user group having as members a  
9 plurality of wireless telephones, the wireless telephone being a member  
10 of the user group;  
11 receive a second input indicating that a second member of  
12 the user group has accepted the call initiation request;  
13 receive a third input indicating that a call has been  
14 connected between the initiating party and the second member; and  
15 send a signal from the wireless telephone requesting to join  
16 the call.
- 1 22. The wireless telephone of claim 21, wherein the instructions further  
2 include instructions to:  
3 cause an output on an output device on the wireless telephone  
4 indicating that the first input, second input, and third input were received  
5 by the wireless telephone.

- 1 23. The wireless telephone of claim 21, wherein the instructions further
- 2 include instructions to:
- 3 receive an input indicating that the wireless telephone is to
- 4 block other members from joining the call.